



**Press Contact:**

Tim Nelson  
Marketing and Communications  
Telephone: 815.933.4559  
Email: [jehumble@citykankakee-il.gov](mailto:jehumble@citykankakee-il.gov)

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

**New Food Pantry Deemed as a Success at AMITA Health St. Mary's Hospital**

**Kankakee, IL** – AMITA Health St. Mary's Hospital has launched a new micro food pantry to help those in need. The food pantry is available to the community 24 hours a day all year round.

"There are several great food pantries in the county, but access is limited to certain days and times for each and unless an individual has transportation, they are often unattainable. Our goal is to serve our immediate community with access to healthy food options that can be obtained any time of the day," said Director of Community Development for AMITA Health St. Mary's Hospital, Kathy Peterson.

The food pantry is located on the north side of the medical campus on the circle drive and will be stocked twice a day.

"Our hospitals rank among the top in the nation and their work goes beyond providing healthcare services. It shows their true values in giving back to our community. I am thankful AMITA Health St. Mary's Hospital is providing 24-hour access to food options as another resource in the City of Kankakee. We are happy to support them in their ongoing efforts," said Mayor Wells-Armstrong.

Some items that are included in the micro food pantry year-round are:

- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Canned soups
- Pastas and sauces
- Cereal and oatmeal
- Peanut butter
- Granola bars

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The City of Kankakee is dedicated to protecting, building and nurturing the community while enhancing lives. We are a historic, vibrant, and active riverfront community. We continue to transform into an extraordinary place to dream, grow, and thrive. Embracing our diversity, we strive to be progressive, inclusive, and innovative. For more information on the City of Kankakee, please visit the website at [www.citykankakee-il.gov](http://www.citykankakee-il.gov).